

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1160

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TW, CH, US
SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF THE PRC-THE LEGAL IMPLICATION FOR US-
TAIWAN RELATIONS

1. ASSOCIATED WITH OUR CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF NORMALIZATION OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE PRC IS THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING THE UNDERMINING OF THE WELL-BEING AND SECURITY OF TAIWAN. THIS REQUIRES THE CONTINUATION IN SOME FORM OR OTHER OF A COMPLEX OF ARRANGEMENTS GOVERNING US-ROC RELATIONS, PRIMARILY IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS. IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT SUCH CONTINUITY WOULD REQUIRE IN MOST IF NOT ALL INSTANCES SOME POSITIVE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTION -- INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN SOME CASES-- AT THE TIME THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ROC ARE TERMINATED. SUCH ACTION COULD POSE SERIOUS AND SOMETIMES POLITICALLY DELICATE COMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD COMPOUND THE ALREADY DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY OUR INTENDED TERMINATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ROC.

2. MYFEPUTY, ROGER SULLIVAN, WHO HAS HAD A LONG ASSOCIA-
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TION WITH THE CHINA QUESTION, BELIEVES AS A RESULT OF CONSIDERABLE STUDY, INCLUDING SOME LEGAL EXAMINATION, THAT THE POSITIVE U.S. GOVERNMENT STEPS, WHICH HAVE GENERALLY BEEN CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THOSE TIES WITH TAIWAN WHICH WE DO NOT WISH TO CUT, ARE IN FACT NOT REQUIRED AND THAT THOSE RELATIONS CAN CONTINUE ESSENTIALLY UNDISTURBED TO THE EXTENT THAT WE DESIRE THIS TO BE SO.

3. MR. SECRETARY, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SULLIVAN'S CONCLUSIONS WHICH APPEAR TO ME SOUND, CARRY SUCH USEFUL AND IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF NORMALIZATION THAT I AM COMMENDING THEM TO YOUR ATTENTION. I SUGGEST THAT THEY PROMPTLY BE GIVEN THE MOST THOROUGH LEGAL AND POLICY STUDY, INCLUDING STUDY BY, BUT NOT CONFINED TO, STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL EXPERTS. SULLIVAN'S CONCLUSIONS ARE SET FORTH IN THE NEXT FOLLOWING MESSAGE.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

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